



October 16, 2019

Senator Sharif Street
1621 West Jefferson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19121

Dear Senator  Street:

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to tour T.M. Peirce School on September 18th. It was evident to all of us the scope and severity of the facilities issues at Peirce. Particularly, we highlighted the exposed, damaged asbestos in the school gym. As we discussed, the combination of several factors make this particularly dangerous: the damage to the asbestos, its total exposure, and its presence in a very high traffic and active area.

The damage was initially assessed by our environmental scientist, Jerry Roseman, on September 16th, and on September 17th, he discussed it with district officials. Following this initial discussion, Jerry Roseman once again discussed his recommendations with the district officials during a meeting on September 25th. I am attaching an e-mail with recommendations and photos that Jerry Roseman sent to the district officials on October 4th.

To date, there has been, to our knowledge, no effort to protect the students and staff from further exposure to the toxic conditions to which they are exposed. This is deeply concerning.

As you observed during our tour, the exposed asbestos was not the only urgent issue at T.M. Peirce. Flaking lead paint abounded, and even in abatement areas, there were concerns. Feet from where children were learning, an unsealed abatement area threatened the safety of our children and staff.

While facilities issues throughout T.M. Peirce and the District are profound, there are a number of steps that must be taken to immediately address emergent situations. To that end, the PFT released on September 18th its asbestos recommendations, to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect our communities. I have attached a copy of our recommendations for your reference.

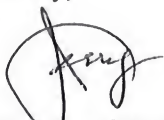
It was a joy to see the enthusiastic educators and students at T.M. Peirce. But it was also, juxtaposed with the conditions in which they are expected to learn, heartbreaking. The students at T.M. Peirce deserve every effort afforded to them to ensure that they have the tools they need to succeed. Ensuring that they are not exposed to toxic asbestos fibers every day is a bare minimum.

Senator Sharif Street
October 8, 2019
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In order to ensure the safety of our young people and our members, it is incumbent upon the District to conduct an immediate investigation of the exposed asbestos and all of the concerns outlined in the attached e-mail.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry T. Jordan", enclosed within a circular scribble.

JERRY T. JORDAN
President

JTJ*lla
USW - 10-286
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cc: Dr. William Hite, Superintendent
Danielle Floyd, Chief Operating Officer

Attachments